

BYRON L. DORGAN
NORTH DAKOTA
322 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405
202-224-2551
202-224-8378 TDD

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
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CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

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STATE OFFICES:

312 FEDERAL BUILDING
THIRD AND ROSSER AVENUE
P.O. BOX 2579
BISMARCK, ND 58502
701-255-4618
1-800-666-4482 TOLL-FREE

1802 32ND AVENUE S., SUITE B
P.O. BOX 9080
FARGO, ND 58106
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GRAND FORKS, ND 58201
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MINOT, ND 58701
701-852-0700

The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Majoras:

As you are aware, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 includes a provision I authored, Section 1809, which requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to conduct an investigation within the next 90 days to determine if the price of gasoline is being artificially manipulated by reducing refinery capacity or by any other form of market manipulation or price gouging practices.

I am requesting the FTC initiate this investigation immediately if it has not already done so. Within the last month consumers have seen the average price for a gallon of gasoline jump more than 25 cents. This means that consumers will go to the pumps today and spend \$105 million more than they spent just last month.

These additional costs are hitting everyone hard, especially in rural areas where people have to drive longer distances. It is no longer a question of whether or not a family can afford to enroll their kids in after-school programs. It now comes down to whether a family can afford to even take their kids to these activities.

It is unconscionable that while these families struggle to pay for gas, integrated oil companies are reporting as much as \$7 billion in monthly profits. This is not right and something needs to be done about it.

I look forward to your response and the findings of your investigation.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senator

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